

RESULTS FROM LUMINOSITY SCANS DURING THE RHIC 2000 RUN*

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Abstract

During the year 2000 run a total of eight beam scans (Vernier Scans) were performed at various interaction points (IP) at RHIC. During a Vernier Scan the experimental collision rates are recorded while the beams are stepwise scanned across each other. Vernier Scans yield transverse beam sizes as well as maximum luminosity and thus the absolute cross section, which with the limited data from the 2000 run we measured to be $\sigma = 8.9 \pm 0.3$ barn at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 130$ GeV. Also, Vernier Scans permit performance studies of the beam orbit control and local coupling.

1 INTRODUCTION

The delivered total luminosity is an important parameter to determine the collider performance. In addition, the total cross section, which is derived from the luminosity measurement, is one of the necessary global event features used to normalize parameters of the initial state in heavy ion collisions such as the charged multiplicity. In this report, we describe the method of Vernier Scans to measure the absolute cross section of Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 130$ GeV at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC). Because the experiments used ZDC (Zero Degree Calorimeter) [1] coincidences as a minimum bias trigger, the total absolute cross section presented here is the total cross section seen by the ZDC coincidences from Au+Au interactions which include minimum bias nuclear interactions and mutual Coulomb Dissociation[2]. This cross section has been calculated in [2] resulting in 10.7 ± 0.5 b at $\sqrt{s} = 130$ GeV and deviates from the measured value. This discrepancy is not yet understood and will be investigated during the upcoming run 2001.

2 THE ZERO DEGREE CALORIMETER

The Zero Degree Calorimeter (ZDC) [1] is designed of alternating absorber and Cerenkov fiber layers. Crossing particles within a limited angular cone produce Cerenkov radiation which is channeled in the fiber ribbons to a photo multiplier tube. The ZDC units are located behind the DX magnets between the beam pipes at about ± 18 m from each of the four equipped IPs subtending an angle of about 2.5 mrad of the forward direction. Since charged particles are bent by the DX magnets they are sensitive to only uncharged particles from the interaction zone. The calorimeters are designed to measure neutrons emitted from nuclear fragments from Au+Au collisions that missed the actual interaction zone. The inclusive correlated emission in each

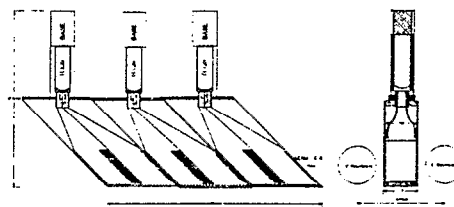


Figure 1: Front and side view of the 3 ZDC modules. 3 modules form one detector unit, of which 8 are installed in RHIC.

beam direction is used to suppress many kinds of backgrounds and corresponds to a large cross section, which has been calculated and is measured in this report.

3 VERNIER SCANS

The Vernier Scan was invented by S. van der Meer in 1968[3] who showed that it is possible to measure the effective height h_e of the colliding ISR beams by observing the counting rate R in a suitable monitor system while sweeping the two beams vertically through each other. A Gauss-shaped curve results with its maximum at zero displacement. At RHIC the transverse displacement was achieved by applying orbit-bumps [5] around the IP. The typical step size was 200 μ m which could be confirmed by reconstructed vertices from the STAR TPC detector as shown in figure 2.

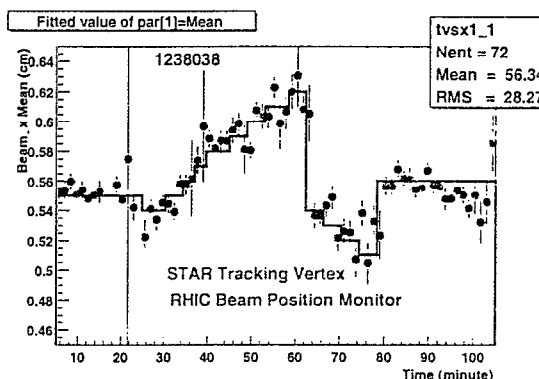


Figure 2: RHIC predicted beam set position and mean of STAR tracking primary vertex. The horizontal axis is time in units of minutes of the operation and vertical axis is mean value of two-beam overlapping region in units of cm. The agreement between these two is considered to be very good.

The interaction rate N_{ZDC} is defined as the number of beam particles (N_{blu} and N_{yel}) going through each other in some area A with cross section σ :

$$N_{ZDC} = \frac{N_{blu} \cdot N_{yel}}{A} \sigma = \mathcal{L} \sigma \quad (1)$$

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For two beams with Gaussian distribution in both, horizontal and vertical directions, the luminosity is given by [4]:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{k_b f_{rev} N_1 N_2}{2\pi \sqrt{(\sigma_{x1}^2 + \sigma_{x2}^2)(\sigma_{y1}^2 + \sigma_{y2}^2)}} \quad (2)$$

with $i=1,2$ for blue and yellow beams respectively and N_i the number of particles per bunch assuming all bunches in one beam are the same. Bunch-to-bunch variations will be discussed below in section 5. In the case of non-centered beams, consider the case of one beam displaced by d , the luminosity $\mathcal{L}(d)$ as a function of d is:

$$\mathcal{L}(d) = \frac{k_b f_{rev} N_1 N_2 \exp[-d^2/2(\sigma_{x1}^2 + \sigma_{x2}^2)]}{2\pi \sqrt{(\sigma_{x1}^2 + \sigma_{x2}^2)(\sigma_{y1}^2 + \sigma_{y2}^2)}} \quad (3)$$

The terms $\sqrt{\sigma_{i1}^2 + \sigma_{i2}^2}$, where $i = x, y$, in Eq.3 and Eq.2 correspond to the beam profile derived from the width of the distribution measured by the Vernier Scan. This results in:

$$\sigma_{Vx} = \sqrt{\sigma_{x1}^2 + \sigma_{x2}^2} \quad (4)$$

Vernier Scans measure the effective beam area over the whole longitudinal interaction range, i.e. approximately + 5 m, instead of measuring the beam transverse size at the center of the IP with the corresponding values of the beta-function, $\beta^* = 8 \text{ m}^1$ and $\beta^* = 3 \text{ m}^2$. However, the collision rates we get from the scans correspond to the entire effective beam area as well.

4 DATA ANALYSIS

A total of eight Vernier Scans was done at PHENIX (IP 8), PHOBOS (IP 10) and STAR (IP 6) during the year 2000 run. Table 1 summarizes all scans. Figure 3 shows the horizontal and vertical distributions from the scan at PHENIX. The archived distributions were fitted to a Gauss function

#	IP	β^* [m]	start time	end time	t_{st} [h]
1	8	3	08/22, 07:55	08/22, 08:35	1.9
2	10	8	08/23, 21:55	08/23, 22:28	1.4
3	10	8	08/23, 23:52	08/24, 00:17	3.3
4	6	8	08/25, 18:00	08/25, 19:42	5.1
5	10	8	08/29, 17:03	08/29, 17:35	2.8
6	10	8	08/29, 19:49	08/29, 20:17	5.5
7	6	8	08/30, 01:20	08/30, 02:30	1.0
8	6	8	08/30, 05:00	08/30, 06:25	4.8

Table 1: List of vernier scans performed during the year 2000 RHIC run. Scans performed during the same store are grouped together. t_{st} is the (center-)time of the scan with respect to the start of the fill, i.e. the time when the flat-top energy is reached.

yielding the following results:

- horizontal and vertical beam sizes σ_{Vx} , σ_{Vy}
- location of fully overlapping beams (center location) in the two planes, x_{max} and y_{max}

¹STAR and PHOBOS

²PHENIX and BRAHMS

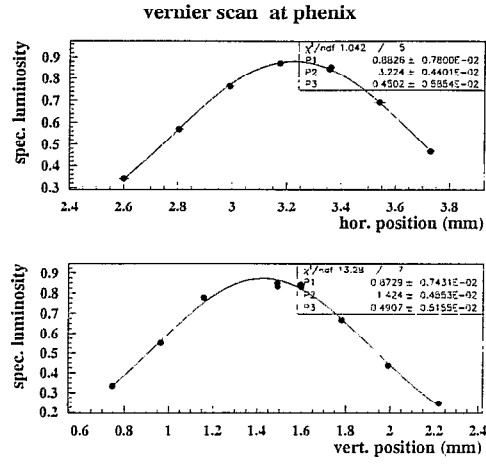


Figure 3: A Vernier Scan at the PHENIX interaction point with $\beta^* = 3 \text{ m}$. The Gauss-fit is superimposed, errors are statistical.

- maximum collision rates from the 2 fits:

$$R_{max}^x = N_{ZDC}^x / N_{blu} N_{yel}$$

$$R_{max}^y = N_{ZDC}^y / N_{blu} N_{yel}$$

Table 2 summarizes the uncorrected fit results for all scans.

id	σ_{Vx}	$\delta\sigma_{Vx}$	σ_{Vy}	$\delta\sigma_{Vy}$	R_{max}^x	R_{max}^y	δR_{max}
1	449	6	487	5	0.846	0.830	0.008
2	715	13	685	13	0.427	0.407	0.004
3	781	30	722	20	0.328	0.323	0.004
4	932	24	769	30	0.211	0.292	0.007
5	885	28	707	16	0.296	0.316	0.003
6	1180	104	763	40	0.283	0.299	0.005
7	658	5	607	6	0.415	0.411	0.007
8	916	11	734	13	0.264	0.268	0.005

Table 2: Uncorrected fit results from the eight Vernier Scans. given errors are statistical. The widths are given in units of μm , the normalized rates in 10^{-18} Hz .

5 CROSS SECTIONS

Several mechanisms can adulterate the cross section results:

- The WCM calibration has to be understood.
- The filling pattern and the actual colliding bunches change the effective beam current causing R_{max} to increase.
- Beam blow-up [6] is a continuous process causing the normalized collision rate to decrease as a function of store time resulting in R_{max}^y being systematically lower than R_{max}^x .
- In addition to the continuous blow-up there could be other effects increasing the beam size such as the scan itself when beams are typically steered off-center more than usual. This again would result in R_{max}^y being smaller than R_{max}^x .

- Before a scan is done the center location is not known in either plane, hence the vertical position is likely to be off-center, reducing R_{max}^z .
- Coupling changes the position in the non-swept plane while a scan is in progress in the other. This would reduce the maximum achievable counting rate even for perfectly head-on beams.
- After a scan is performed in one plane beams were steered with limited accuracy to a head-on position.

The WCM [7] readings are adjusted to the high precision DCCT [8] current measurement using data from the beginning of the store only since the WCM is not sensitive to debunched beam. The fill pattern was recorded by the WCM during every store, one example shown in figure 4, and was used to correct $N_1 N_2$. The beam position was recorded in

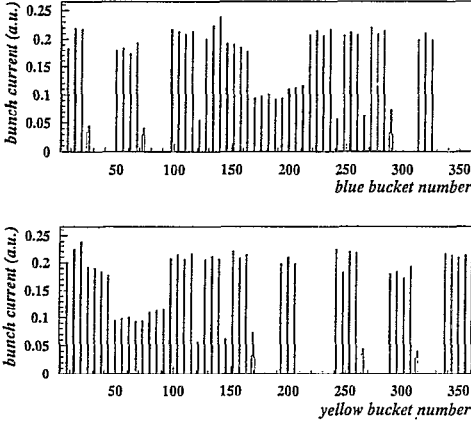


Figure 4: Fill pattern as measured with the WCM in the blue and yellow ring. Reference point is the PHENIX IP. The bucket number in the yellow ring is shifted by 20 such that the yellow bucket # 21 corresponds to bucket # 1 according to actually colliding pairs.

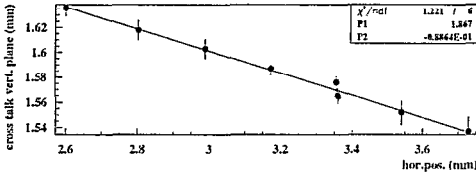


Figure 5: Measured movement in the vertical plane at PHENIX while scanning the horizontal plane.

both planes at any time during the scans. From this data, a correction of R_{max} for mis-steering in the non-swept plane, such as a cross talk between the two (figure 5), could be derived. The absolute cross sections in table 3 are calculated according to: $\sigma_{Au+Au} = R_{max} \frac{2\pi\sigma_{Vx}\sigma_{Vy}k_b}{f_{rev}}$. Here, R_{max} and σ_{Vx}, σ_{Vy} are the Gauss fit parameters.

6 SUMMARY

Vernier Scans are a useful tool to determine the total cross section as well as for emittance measurements, luminosity measurements and IP optimization. The total measured cross section from the ZDCs as presented in this report is 8.9 ± 0.3 b (preliminary). The discrepancy from the

id	R_{max} 10^{-18} Hz	σ_{Vx} μm	σ_{Vy} μm	CS 1 barn	CS 2 barn
1	0.883	450	491	8.7	9.9
2	0.433	715	685	9.4	9.4
3	0.334	782	722	8.4	8.4
4(*)	0.292	932	768	9.4	9.5
5	0.318	885	707	8.8	8.8
6	0.300	1179	764	12.0	12.0
7	0.460	657	607	8.2	8.0
8	0.289	917	734	8.6	8.5

Table 3: List of Vernier Scans and resulting total cross sections (CS) after correcting for being off-center in the plane which is not scanned (CS 1) and after correcting for the fill pattern (CS 2). (*) CS 1 is uncorrected for this scan since there was no data available.

predicted value 10.7 ± 0.5 b is not yet understood and the analysis is still in progress. For better understanding and in order to reduce the statistical uncertainty more Vernier Scans with better data acquisition tools will be performed in the upcoming year 2001 run.

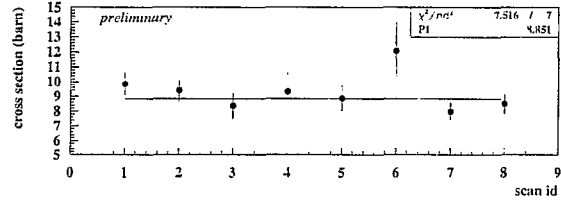


Figure 6: Corrected cross sections from the eight vernier scans. Errors shown include statistical and systematic error sources.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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